

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Kazunori TANIGUCHI, et al.

Serial No.: 10/630,884

Filed: July 30, 2003

Confirmation No.: 7938

Date: June 6, 2007

Group Art Unit: 3734

Examiner: Lindsey Michele BACHMAN

For: SURGICAL INSTRUMENT

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VIA EFS-WEB

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SUBMISSION

Sir:

Submitted herewith is a copy of art together with a form listing the same for the convenience of the Examiner.

I certify that each item of information contained in this Submission was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than 3 months prior to the filing of this Submission. A translation of pertinent parts of the Office Action has been provided in lieu of a Statement of Relevancy of the present invention to the teachings of the cited prior art.

Respectfully submitted,



THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING  
SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY  
THROUGH THE PATENT AND  
TRADEMARK OFFICE EFS FILING  
SYSTEM ON June 6, 2007.

MM:kc

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<b>APPLICANT'S ART CITATION</b> (Use several sheets if necessary)		Application <b>10/630,884</b>		OFGS File No. <b>P/3541-39</b>		
		Applicant <b>Kazunori TANIGUCHI, et al.</b>				
		Filing Date <b>July 30, 2003</b>		Group Art Unit <b>---</b>		
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS (not submitted for applications filed after 6/30/03)						
Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Class	Sub- class	Filing Date If Appropriate
	US- 5,417,203	05-1995	H. Jonathan TOVEY, et al.			
	US-					
	US-					
	US-					
	US-					
	US-					
	US-					
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
	Document Number	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Class	Sub- class	Translation
						Yes      No
	8-206120	08-1996	Japan			
	5-245153	09-1993	Japan			
	11-192235	07-1999	Japan			
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)						
		Office Action issued by the Japanese Patent Office dated April 13, 2007.				
		Translation of the Office Action issued by the Japanese Patent Office dated April 13, 2007.				
Examiner		Date Considered				
EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.						